

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 307279
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 307279

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 9603 ACTION STATE DEC 24.

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 9603

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH HUSSEIN IN TEHRAN

REF: A) AMMAN 9577, B) STATE 306258, C) STATE 306326 RE-
PEATING TEHRAN 11307)

SUMMARY: SHARAF ASKED ABOUT TIMING AND TEXT OF
PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR KING'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
IN TEHRAN. JORDAN PREFERS HIGHLIGHTING U.S. ROLE IN
INVITING KING TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ASKS
FOR OUR THOUGHTS AND SAYS HE HOPES TO WORK OUT TEXT
WITH THE IRANIANS FOR EARLY ISSUANCE. SHARAF SAID
PARALLEL SADAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN WOULD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 307279

CAUSE HUSSEIN TO RECONSIDER HIS ATTENDANCE. SITUATION
WITH SYRIA IS AS CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT AS IT
CAN GET. I SAID I WAS NOT INFORMED OF DETAILS OF
ANY MEETING WITH SADAT, AND INDEED WITH OTHER MIDDLE
EAST LEADERS, BUT WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS IMMEDIATELY.
SHARAF THOUGHT SADAT MEETING LOGICAL, SAW VALUE IN
IT TAKING PLACE IN RIYADH, OR POSSIBLY EVEN CAIRO

WITH BEGIN ATTENDING. PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF YOUR
THOUGHTS ON THESE TWO POINTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
END SUMMARY

1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF ASKED TO SEE ME MORNING DECEMBER
24. HE DEBRIEFED ME ON HIS VIEWS OF KING'S TRIP TO
GULF AND JORDANIAN NEXT DIPLOMATIC STEPS (SEPTTEL).

2. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS ON HIS MIND WERE ANNOUNCEMENT
OF KING'S VISIT TO TEHRAN AND ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE
WERE OR MIGHT BE MAKING TO SEE OTHER ARAB LEADERS
DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE AREA.

3. ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS, KING HAD TOLD
SHARAF TO COORDINATE WITH ME AND MY IRANIAN COLLEAGUE.
HE HAD ASKED TO SEE ME FIRST. HE SAID THAT HIS
PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO DIVIDE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN
TWO PORTIONS, WITH THE FIRST PORTION HIGHLIGHTING
THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HUSSEIN HAD BEEN
IN DIRECT TOUCH TO WORK OUT THE MEETING. THE SECOND
PORTION WOULD REFER TO THE SHAH'S INVITATION WHICH
FACILITATED GETTING TOGETHER. HE WOULD LIKE TO GO
AHEAD WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS
POINT AND WOULD CONVEY HIS WISHES TO WASHINGTON
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 307279

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I SAID WE OF COURSE WANT TO
DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD DISTURB OR UPSET THE IRANIANS.
AS REGARDS TIMING, I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD HOLD OFF
FOR SOME HOURS MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL I COULD
RECEIVE WASHINGTON'S REACTION. HE AGREED IN LIGHT
OF MY REQUEST AND INFORMATION IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS
TO HOLD OFF. HE SAID ABOVE IDEAS ARE HIS OWN, BUT
IRANIANS COULD VERY WELL HAVE A DIFFERENT FEEL ABOUT
HOW TO HANDLE THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. SHARAF ALSO SAID VERY CLEARLY TO ME THAT KING WOULD
BE GREATLY UPSET IF SADAT WERE TO BE MEETING WITH
THE PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN. HE ASKED WHAT I COULD TELL
HIM ABOUT THIS. I SAID THAT I HAD NO RECENT INFOR-
MATION, BUT THAT EVERYTHING WHICH I HAD RECEIVED,
INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY WHEN HE WAS
HERE, MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT MEETING IN TEHRAN WAS NOT
BEING CONSIDERED. SHARAF SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE
VERY USEFUL, PARTICULARLY REGARDING SAUDI ATTITUDES,
IF SUCH A MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN RIYADH.
ALTERNATIVELY, HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT
CONSIDER STOPPING IN CAIRO. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT

THESE TWO WERE DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES, DEPENDENT UPON THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS' ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, I COULD NOT SPEAK WITH CERTAINTY ON THIS POINT AND WOULD ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. WITH RESPECT TO TEHRAN, I ALSO TOLD SHARAF I THOUGHT ONE REASON WHY WE FOUND IT INCONVENIENT TO SEE ASAD THERE WAS BECAUSE SADAT WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A KIND OF MINI-SUMMIT WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE HIM.

6. JORDANIANS HAVE QUITE LOGICALLY CONCLUDED THAT IF PRESIDENT IS GOING TO SEE HUSSEIN AND INVITE ASAD, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SEEING OTHERS. I BELIEVE IT IS NOW NOT TOO EARLY TO LET HUSSEIN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 307279

KNOW SOMETHING OF OUR PLANS AND PROPOSALS ON THIS SCORE. OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING SADAT INFORMED. THE MEETINGS WILL BE OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR EACH STATE IN THE AREA AND A LACK OF SOME SENSE OF OUR PLANNING COULD LEAD SOME FRIENDS LIKE HUSSEIN INTO MAKING CHOICES PARTLY IN THE DARK, CHOICES WHICH HE WOULD FIND EMBARRASSING OR DIFFICULT AT A LATTER STAGE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PLEASE LET ME HAVE BY RETURN CABLE WHATEVER THOUGHTS YOU MAY WISH ME TO CONVEY TO SHARAF ON THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. I DISLIKE MAKING THIS A TRI-LATERAL NEGOTIATION, BUT SINCE WE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY APPROACHED BY THE JORDANIANS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE THEM OUR VIEWS ON TEXT AND TIMING; AND (B) SOME SORT OF A GENERAL SITUATION REPORT FOR HUSSEIN PERSONALLY ON THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING PLANS WITH OTHER MIDDLE EAST LEADERS SO THAT KING CAN BE KEPT IN THE PICTURE AND AVOID ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSTEPS ON HIS PART.

8. I ALSO CONVEYED BASIC INFORMATION REFTEL C) REGARDING TEHRAN SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART TO SHARAF. SHARAF TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING KING WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER AND I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS AND RELATED POINTS BY TELEPHONE AND EXPECT TO BE TALKING WITH HIM DIRECTLY VERY SHORTLY. PICKERING
UNQUOTE VANCE

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